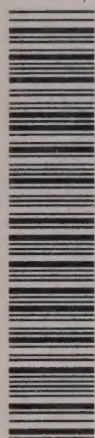
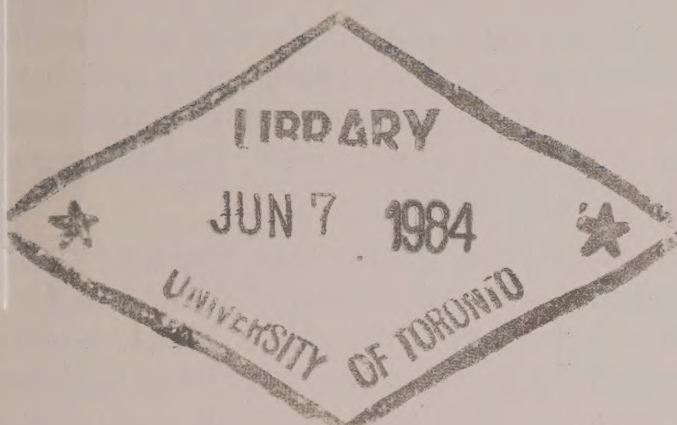


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NATIVE COMMUNITY BRANCH



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ONTARIO
MINISTRY OF
CITIZENSHIP
AND CULTURE

Who we are

The Native Community Branch is a consultative agency which works with Native communities and organizations. The branch's goal is to assist those communities and organizations in their efforts to encourage self reliance and participation in the life of the province. In promoting this goal, the branch has identified the following objectives.

Objectives of the Native Community Branch

1. To support Native heritage preservation and cultural continuity;
2. To promote the development of human resources and leadership in the Native community;
3. To assist Native communities in socio-economic development;
4. To facilitate direct Native access to government services and resources.

Why the Native Community Branch?

The branch's role flows from both its historical development and from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation Act. The Ministry of Culture and Recreation Act, Section 8(a) states that the minister shall . . . "in the cause of human betterment, advance and encourage the concept of full and equal citizenship . . .". Further, Section 6(1) of the Act states that the ministry is to advance and encourage responsible citizenship, including the preserving of the cultural heritage of Ontario residents, with full recognition of their diverse traditions and backgrounds.

Native people are therefore being offered assistance, because for a variety of historical reasons, full and equal citizenship with other residents of Ontario has not been achieved to date.

What does the Native Community Branch do?

Programs of the branch include consultative assistance, research and information, publications, policy advisory services, and grants.

Consultative assistance to Native communities

Help through consultation is provided to Metis communities, Friendship Centres, the Native Women's Association, Indian Bands, Native cultural and communications groups and other local Native groups by the branch's Community Resource Officers throughout Ontario. Provincial Native organizations have recourse to Toronto consultants. Consultation services include:

- assisting Native communities in identifying local problems and in developing appropriate projects or programs;
- advising Native communities and organizations of services or programs which could help their development, and assisting them in securing resources necessary to conduct community development projects;
- linking Native communities and organizations with the appropriate provincial ministries and agencies, and obtaining the services of specialists available from these ministries when required.
- providing assistance to Native leaders on the preparation and submission of proposals to government, and advising how to evaluate existing and new projects.

Research and information

The branch has a vertical file system on Native people. Research studies and information are organized in the areas of demographic data, social and economic conditions, Native organizations and communities, experimental or pilot projects throughout Canada, other provincial policies and programs for Native people, and Native position papers. The major objectives of this research are:

- to provide provincial ministries and agencies with specific and accurate information regarding Ontario's Native people;
- to make available to Native organizations and communities information and research that they may require;
- to improve the branch's own information base for planning its future activities and setting priorities.

Publications

Branch publications are being developed to promote a better knowledge of Native people and their organizations throughout Ontario.

These publications include:

1. Provincial and Regional Native Organizations in Ontario;
2. Directory of Native Communities and Organizations;
3. Metis and Non-Status Indians of Ontario: Community Profile and Demographic Study;
4. A Profile of Native People in Ontario.
5. Distribution of Native Population in Ontario, 1981.

Policy advisory services

The branch, because of its unique field presence and its close working relationship with Native organizations, provides information and consultation to provincial ministries and agencies on policies or programs related to Native people.

Policy analysis and advice are provided through the ministry's participation on the Cabinet Committee on Native Affairs and through participation on interministry committees or working groups addressing specific issues.

The branch also facilitates direct communication between Native organizations and the relevant provincial ministries in the resolution of policy or program issues.

Native community grants

The branch has a transfer payment program designed to assist Native communities and organizations in meeting priorities and objectives as identified by them. Projects must promote the branch's goals and meet the grant conditions and criteria. The grant program provides assistance to a wide variety of project areas.

Provincial Organization Support Financial assistance is provided to a limited number of provincial Native organizations to cover their basic administrative costs. Eligible organizations must be provincial Native organizations with a demonstrated membership throughout the province and their mandate must concur with the objectives and priorities of the Native Community Branch.

Small Business Development Limited financial support is available to support Native organizations and communities in the development of viable business enterprises.

Priority is given to feasibility studies and studies of the economic potential of communities. Funding is also available for initial start-up costs of small Native businesses. Contributions from the applicant are a condition of the grant. Larger projects are often cost-shared with other agencies.

Leadership Training Funds are available to Native communities and organizations concerned with the development of leadership potential among Native people. Support will also be provided for projects providing skill training to Native people.

Examples of eligible projects include staff training sessions, leadership-training seminars, educational programs and employment projects providing skill training and development.

Research Projects undertaken by Native people dealing with areas of original research will be considered for support. Priority will be given to demographic research and community needs documentation. Consideration will also be given to Native organizations working to undertake detailed research designs.

Communications Native initiated projects on media, ranging from radio, VTR and television to printed and visual materials will be considered. Projects should support community and leadership development through improved communications within the Native community, and through general public education.

Native Heritage Projects of an innovative nature that support community and leadership development through cultural activities will be considered. Eligible projects include heritage preservation, crafts and intercultural understanding, the visual and performing arts, and language conservation.

Meetings Funds are available for Native groups to gather and discuss issues of common concern. Priority is given to meetings of Native groups at the regional and local level. Eligible projects range from internal Native organizational meetings and meetings between Native groups and the provincial government to special meetings around specific issues.

Ontario's Native people

Native people on reserves

There are 68,658 registered status Indians in Ontario, but only 44,390, or 65 per cent, live on reserves and are governed by a local Band Council¹. These Bands are represented by a number of treaty organizations such as the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, Grand Council Treaty No. 3, Grand Council Treaty No. 9, and Union of Ontario Indians. Some bands are not affiliated with any major treaty organizations. The Ontario Native Women's Association represents the interests of Native women who live on and off reserves.

Native people off reserves

Approximately 22,400 or 35 per cent of Ontario's status Indians live off reserves². In addition, the Metis and Non-Status Indians whose population is estimated at between 50,000 and 185,000³ live in rural and urban communities. They are served by a number of local Native organizations such as Indian Friendship Centres, Ontario Native Women Anishnabequeks and Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Locals.

These local organizations in turn are represented by the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, the Ontario Native Women's Association, and the Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association.

1. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, *Registered Band Population* as at December 31, 1979, 1980.

2. Ibid.

3. Ministry of Culture and Recreation, *Metis and Non-Status Indians of Ontario, 1980*.

How to contact the Native Community Branch

Northeast and South Area

Area Supervisor
199 Larch St., 4th Fl.
Sudbury, Ontario
P3E 5P9
Tel: (705) 675-4349

Timmins

22 Wilcox St., 2nd Fl.
Timmins, Ontario
P4N 3K6
Tel: (705) 267-7110

Sudbury

199 Larch St., 4th Fl.
Sudbury, Ontario
P3E 5P9
Tel: (705) 675-4349

Sault Ste. Marie

Elgin Tower, 3rd Fl.
390 Bay Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.
P6A 1X2
Tel: (705) 942-0419

Orillia

15 Matchedash St. N.
Orillia, Ontario
L3V 4T4
Tel: (705) 325-9561

London

495 Richmond St. 5th Fl.
London, Ontario
N6A 5A9
Tel: (519) 438-2947

Toronto/Hamilton/Ottawa

77 Bloor St. W., 5th Fl.
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9
Tel: (416) 965-5003

Northwest Area

Area Supervisor
1825 East Arthur St.
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7E 5N7
Tel: (807) 475-1225

Kenora

(1) West Patricia area
(2) Kenora/Dryden area
20 Main Street South
Kenora, Ontario
P9N 1S7
Tel: (807) 468-5568

Fort Frances

Box 613
240 Scott St., 2nd Fl.
Fort Frances, Ontario
P9A 3M9
Tel: (807) 274-9732

Geraldton

Box 778
303 Main St. E.
Geraldton, Ontario
P0T 1M0
Tel: (807) 854-0169

Thunder Bay

1825 East Arthur St.
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7E 5N7
Tel: (807) 475-1225

Head Office

77 Bloor St. W., 5th Fl.
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9
Tel: (416) 965-5003

Staff in Toronto provide support to the field, work directly with provincial organizations and liaise with other federal and provincial departments, ministries and agencies. Toronto staff consist of the Director of the Native Community Branch, a senior consultant and four consultants in the areas of Native Culture, Social Development, Economic Development and Native Provincial Organizations.



Ontario

Ministry of
Citizenship
and Culture

Susan Fish
Minister